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Executive Office
Jackson Miss Oct 31st

Sir.

A telegram just received from Mobile, signed P. Hamilton V. President, states "A Col Bishop has undertaken to forbid any shipment of cotton from Okolona and orders a tax of 25 cents per bale".

I am requested to enquire whether this tax is by authority,

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt. Svt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss

To
W. A. Gordon
Maj. & A. A. Genl
A. D. of Miss

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
November 2nd 1865

Sir.

I wish you to have made out a full statement of the case mentioned in your telegram of today. The offence Committed, the arrest and Commitment, the forcible release by the Military, giving names, dates &c &c so that I can lay the case before the proper Authorities. In the meantime I advise prudence and quick submission and avoid disposition to prolong any collision with the Authorities of the United States

Very Respectfully
Benj. G. Humphreys

To
J. T. Simmons
Sheriff of Madison County
Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss Nov. 3rd 18

Lt. Col. R. S. Donaldson
Asst Commissioner for Freedmen &c

Sir

In reply to yours of this date, stating that negroes had complained to you that their boxes trunks &c had been searched and asking if any orders had been given to that effect. I have to state that my Adjutant General, under my directions gave instructions, or authority, in writing, to Capt J. C McMahon Comdg a Volunteer Company at Madison Station in Madison County, also to Capt J. V Cullum Comdg a Company in same County. to disarm the negroes within their respective Company beats, The order was predicated upon information of the bad state of feeling existing among the negroes in the localities mentioned and as the surest and

safest means for preserving peace and order in the Country. The instructions were, to take from them all U.S. Arms — Arms that once belonged to the U.S. Government. And the Captains were instructed to turn over these Arms to the U.S. Government Authorities, in order to aid in carrying out the provisions of an order from Genl. Osterhaus to collect and turn over these arms to the proper Authorities. Further than I have mentioned no orders of the kind about which you request information, have been issued.

I have Sir, very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
November 3rd 1865

D Sir

Mr. W. S. Gillespie has applied for a patent for some lands belonging to the Internal Improvement lands, which he paid for, April 28th 1865, the sum of $319943/100. I am informed by the Secretary of State that you refused to sign the Patent for the land last spring. My object in writing is to ascertain your objections, & that I can regulate my action accordingly

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
Hon. Chas. Clark
Bolivar Co.
Miss.

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Nov 4th 1865

Sir

I herewith forward you a "copy" of a Communication received from the Sheriff of Madison County Miss. informing me that a prisoner in his custody for grand larceny had been released by an armed force of U. States troops under the command of Lt. D. W. Critchfield and by an order from Capt. G. W. Dorr, signed by A E Bentley Grand Pat. Adjt. The name of the prisoner is Robert Burnett Co. "E" 5th U.S. Col'd Infantry

This is so palpable a violation of the civil law of Mississippi, that I deem it necessary to ask an investigation of the case and respectfully request that said Robert Burnett be returned to the custody of the Sheriff of Madison County to answer for this violation of the Criminal laws of Mississippi.

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
Bvt. Maj. Genl. N. P. Force
Cmdg U.S. forces
Northern Dist, Miss

Executive Office. Jackson Miss
November 4th 1865-

Genl,

I desire to call your attention to the case of Thigpen and Allen. two young men. citizens of Madison County now in confinement in the Military prison at this place

. I respectfully ask that these case be transfered to the proper civil tribunals of the county in which the offence was committed. If it be objected that negro testimony will not be received, this objection can be obviated by the agreement of friend of these parties that it shall be admitted upon the trial of the case by the Magistrate in Madison County. I am assured by the Brother of one of the parties that they both agree to admit the testimony of Blacks, if the Military would regard the decision of the Magistrate as valid, which they refused

These young men hav been in close confinement for two months, They are anxious that their case shall be brought to a hearing. One of them Mr. Allen has been quite sick, part of the time in Hospital and is still ill. If for any sufficient reason these cases cannot be turned over to the Civil Authorities. I would ask that they be permitted to give bond for their appearance which I am assured they and their friends can and will do, I herewith enclose copy of a letter to Judge Advocate of the Military Tribunal before which this case was some time pending addressed to the Counsel You can, attention to this matter is very respectfully asked by

Your Obt Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
Brevt Maj Genl N. F. Force
Comdg A.D. of Miss,
Jackson
Miss

Executive Office
Jackson Miss Nov. 8th 1865

Genl

Sometime since forwarded an application of the Sheriff of Monroe County to have a boy name delivered to him in virtue of a writ of Replevin issued out in that County—

Also a statement of the Sheriff of Madison Co. relative to the forcible rescue of a Colored soldier, Robert Burnett, from jail who had been committed for larceny

I respectfully enquire whether the communications have been received at your office and if so solicit an answer—

Very Respectfully
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To— Maj. Genl. Osterhaus
Comdg Department of Miss,
Vicksburg, Miss

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Nov 8th 1865

General

Yours of 7th inst Communicating information of the murder of Major Morris of this County near the Circumstances Connected with it, was duly received.

I enclose you a Communication addressed to me by J. B. Morris a son of the deceased - accompanied with an affidavit and a warrant issued upon the Affidavit by J. M. Boyd a Justice of the Peace, and the indorsement thereon of the Hon. Judge Chrisman of the Circuit Court.

I respectfully request that immediate measures be taken to have the soldier (whose name is unknown to our authorities but doubtless known to his Command) arrested before he leaves the state and that he be returned over to the Civil Authorities for trial with all the facts in your possession and the names of the witnesses.

To
Brvt. Maj. Gen Ford
Comdg D. of Miss
Jackson Miss

Very Resp Your obt Svt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

Copy

Jackson Miss Nov 8. 1865

Sir

Your Petitioner would respectfully represent to your Excellency that (as he is informed and fully believes and as will more fully appear from the inclosed papers) his Father Jno. J. Morris has been lately killed and murdered and robbed by a Soldier of Co D 13th Indiana Regt. Cavalry in the United States service whose name is unknown to your Petitioner and who cannot be found by him. But your Petitioner is informed that the military Commander of the District of which this County forms a part knows the name of the accused and that he is in his Control; and Your Petitioner respectfully prays your Excellency to take such steps as to your Excellency may seem fit to procure the surrender of said Criminal to the proper Civil authorities to answer said charge.

To
His Excellency
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor Miss

Respy Your obt Svt
(Sd) J. B. Morris

Executive Office Jackson Miss
November 9th 1865

Genl

I herewith transmit the application of the Trustees Presidents & Trustees of the Jacatucha Baptist Female Institute at Grenada, for the restoration of their Buildings now in the possession of the U.S. forces at that place

I respectfully request your favorable ~~consideration~~ consideration and action,

Yr. obt. Servt.

Benj. G Humphreys
Governor of Miss

To

Brvt. Maj. Genl. M. K. Force
Comdg. Dt. of Miss.
Jackson

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Nov 9th 1865

Genl.

I enclose you a letter from Genl. W. T. Martin of Natchez stating forth the necessity of disarming the freedmen and of arming the white population for their defence and protection and asking my assistance in procuring a section of Howitzers for the use of Adams County.

I earnestly solicit your favorable consideration of the subject and such assistance as you can afford

I understand that there are a number of arms at Natchez now in use, some of which have never been turned over to or receipted for by an ordnance officer in service. You would greatly oblige and assist our Militia organizations, if you will issue an order for these arms to be delivered to them.

Hoping a favorable answer I am

Very Respectfully
Yr. obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss in Chief

To

Maj. Genl. Osterhaus
Comdg Dept. of Mississippi
Vicksburg

Telegram.

Executive Office Jackson Miss
Nov. 10th 1865

The Freedmens Bureau has no right to try cases between the whites and negroes. See General Order No. 13 - of Gl. Thomas. Sent by mail

Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss

To

Hon Sampson & Henderson
Okolona
Miss.

Executive Office Jackson Miss
November 11th 1865

Genl,

Your communication of Nov. 9th informing me that my application in the case of Replevin in Monroe County, The Case of forcible rescue of U.S. Soldier Robert Burns from the Civil of Madison County, and the case of the murder and robbery of Maj. Morris of Hinds County by U.S. Soldiers unknown, had been refused by the Authorities at Washington for their decision is entirely satisfactory

In the meantime it is important to quiet the apprehension of our people to know that the Soldiers charged with these offenses are under arrest and will be kept in custody to answer before such Court as the the authorities may decide, and to be assured that if tried before a Military Court that the individuals interested may be notified and enabled to produced before the Courts such witnesses, as may establish their guilt.

Very Respectfully
Yr obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
Maj. Genl. Osterhaus
Comdg Dept. of Miss.
Vicksburg.

Executive Office. Jackson Miss.
November 13th 1865

Genl

In a communication received from you dated Vicksburg Nov. 9th you acknowledge the receipt of my letter to Genl Grant requesting the murderer of Maj. Morris to be turned over to the civil authorities. and inform me that you would forward the application to the proper tribunals at Washington and ask for instructions in the case, This was entirely satisfactory to me. But to day you inform me by telegraph that "the Soldier accused is on trial before a court Martial". This is not according to my understanding unless you have received instructions from the proper tribunals at Washington, in the matter referred. If the proper tribunals at Washington has not decided and so instructed, to have the accused tried by Court Martial. I respectfully protest against the trial and renew my request to have the accused turned over to the civil authorities,

Very Respectfully
Yr. obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
Maj. Genl. Osterhaus
Comdg Dept. of Mississippi
Vicksburg

Executive Office Jackson Miss
November 14th 1865

To His Excellency
Andrew Johnson
President of the United States.

The pleasing duty, has been imposed upon me, of transmitting to Your Excellency the accompanying "Memorial" with the request that you forward me copy to our friend Jefferson Davis,

In early youth, in school boy days I learned to love him for those sterling and manly qualities of head and heart, so prominently displayed throughout his long and illustrious career, a love that has outlived a long life of political opposition, and which no misfortune that may befall him, no lapse of time can efface — And now that the holy and aspirations of his pure and lofty spirit are blasted and he pines in gloomy confinement for offences in which I and thousands of Mississippians participated — every impulse of my heart prompts me to join in the sentiment and prayer of the "Memorial".

Let Mississippi be his quiet home. Let Mississippians be his guard and security.

Very Respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

Telegram

Executive Office Jackson Miss
Nov 16th 1865—

To His Excellency
The President of
the United States

A telegram just received from President of Mobile and Ohio Rail Road says. Passenger train of cars attacked on evening of fourteenth and prisoners taken by garrison of colored troops at Lauderdale Springs. Ladies insulted, officers unable to control them.

The Legislature has memorialized for the removal of U S troops and seem willing to extend to freedmen the right to testify in Court if assured that the troops would be withdrawn Members from that section only leads to anarchy what assurance can I give on the subject

B. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Nov. 24th 1863

Telegram
To
Jno. N. Waddel
Oxford Miss,

All posts north of Grenada ordered to be discontinued. Two regiments are under orders to leave this District for Vicksburg. I hope this act of confidence and trust in the people of Mississippi will be justified by events

(Sd) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Execution Office Jackson Miss.
November 25th

Genl.

Your communication of the 23rd inst was received yesterday. I referred it to the delegation from Pontotoc County. Three gentlemen inform me that the two negroes stole some mules from the neighborhood of Chesterville, ran them into Tippah County, were pursued, captured and brought back to Chesterville with the mules. They have no information as to the treatment the negro received. They suspect that he was dealt foully with, and pledge themselves to have the matter thoroughly investigated and the guilty punished. These gentlemen are sincere friends to the Freedmen and have stated throughout to extend to them the right to testify in our Courts.

I will also immediately write to the Sheriff of Panola to call on Lt. H. B. Dimby and get the names of the parties to the outrage and the names of the witnesses to that and any other outrage that has come to his knowledge and have the arrested and held for trial.

The law extending to the freedmen the right to testify in our Courts in all cases where a freedman is a party to the record, is now the law of the land and will enable the civil authorities to reach this case. I regret for the good of society that such testimony is not allowed against the record of whitemen, that will let the negro in the villainies as a means of justice.

I return documents herewith

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys

To
Genl. T. S. Ward
Comdg Department
of Miss in the
Vicksburg

Executive Office Jackson
Nov 25th 1865-

Gentlemen

Lt. H B Quinby 108 U.S. Col'd Infantry has complained to Maj. Genl. T. D. Ward, comdg. Dept. of Mississippi, that Citizens of Pontotoc are treating freedmen with injustice and in many instances with cruelty. In one instance "hucking and gagging" a freedman at Chesterville. And the disappearance of the freedman since that time, probably murdered. Civil authority taking no notice,

My object in writing to you, is to enquire into the facts, to direct your attention to that case and to get the Civil Authorities to move in the matter.

I have no doubt the Civil Authorities will, if they have not already, do their duty. It is of vital importance to see that Freedmen have justice done them in person and property. We must not get clear of the Military until the civil authorities show a willingness to do that justice to them, It becomes every good citizen to curb the passions of the young and thoughtless

Judge S. S. Gholson has given me your names as gentlemen entirely reliable and you will confer a favor upon me by giving this matter your attention and thus enable me to lay this matter before the Military Authorities in its true light.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

To
R. G. Lilly
Samuel Snyder
L. M Wyley
Pontotoc
Pontotoc Co. Miss.

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Nov. 25th 1865

Sir.

Lt H. B. Quinby 108 U.S. Col'd Infantry has complained of bad treatment of negroes at Chesterville (and the probable murder of one) I wish you to call on Lt. Quinby and obtain from him the names of the parties and the witnesses and have them held for trial before the civil authorities, and furnish me a statement of your investigation in the matter

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss.

To
The Sheriff
of Pontotoc Co.
Miss.

Executive Office Jackson
Nov 27th 1865

Genl

I forward to you the accompanying communication and papers from Judge A. W. Fiske for your decision. I have written to Judge Fiske that I await your answer

A citizen of Mississippi is arrested for the offence of larceny is tried before a Military Commission in September last, the Commission refuse to inform him of the sentence of the Court and still detain him in close confinement. He has appealed to the Civil Authorities, Judge A. W. Fiske of 6th Judicial District grants a writ of Heabeas Corpus. The Military authorities refuse to obey the writ and defy the Civil authorities

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss.

To
T. D. Ward.
Maj. Genl. Comdg.
Department of Mississippi
Vicksburg

Executive Office Jackson Miss
December 2nd 1865

Genl

Your letter asking information as to the strength and locality of the various volunteer organizations of the State was received two days ago, and, I herewith furnish a statement from the office of the Adjt. and In. Genl. Office which contains the information desired, The organization is confined to Companies armed and badly armed, I will take pleasure at any time in furnishing any information you may desire important,

Received yesterday your communication in regard to the an application made to you by Capt, Martin of Natchez and upon your order ~~not to permit~~ forbidding the disarming of the Negroes in this State at this time, I cannot agree with you in the judgement you pronounce upon the provisions of the Revised Code prohibiting free negroes from possessing military weapons, arms &c but if you are right in that, the Legislature has at this session passed an Act declaring "That no freedman free negro or Mulatto not in the Military service of the U. S. Government, and not licensed so to do by the Board of Police of his or her County shall keep or carry fire arms of any kind, or any ammunition, dirk or bowie knife &c and that it shall be the duty of every civil and military officer to arrest any freedman free negro or Mulatto found with any such arms and ammunition and commit him or her to be committed for trial in default of bail,

The Legislature in adjusting the altered Condition and relation between the two races deemed it necessary to place this law on the Statute Book and in view of the unarmed and helpless condition of the whitemen, of the entire Mississippi and throughout the State of insurrectionary purpose

on the part of the freedmen, I deemed it my duty to use such military force as I had to disarm them. It is well known that they are being armed & drilled in every portion of the State, and for what purpose? They have to work, slave & starve, are their guns, pistols bowie knives and disks necessary tools for work - yes, necessary tools for the work of destruction of property & life, and only necessary for that purpose to them, will it be easier to disarm them when they are fully armed and ready for them and the white men than to disarm them now? I sincerely hope that you will revoke your decision and at once order the disarming of every freedman according to the laws of Mississippi.

A few individuals I may be harmed and put to inconvenience, but the great mass will be benefitted by at once opening their eyes to the great fact that they must work, and then they will seek home and employment from those who can pay them and relieve their wants. But let them know that they will be protected in vagrancy and idleness by the U.S. Military force and they will look around for their arms & weapons that will enable them to plunder successfully and any attempt on the part of the civil authorities to enforce the laws will lead directly to insurrection -

I cannot agree with you that the Military force now in Mississippi is sufficient to put down an insurrectionary movement on the part of the freedmen, while I have confidence in the patriotism of the Genl. officers and many of the field and line to discharge their duty with fidelity and honor. I do not believe and no citizen believes that the colored troops will exercise that obedience which is necessary to put down an insurrection and prevent a massacre.

I still hope that you will reconsider your order and thus relieve the painful apprehensions of our people and pave the way to those peaceful and productive pursuits so much needed by both races,

I have dispatched the delegate from Carrollton, to Grenada to enquire into the difficulty at that place and shall send to bring any of the militia that have merged any freedmen to the civil tribunals for trial.

I herewith send the act of Legislature before referred to.

Very Respectfully
Yr. obt. Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi.

To
Maj. Genl. Th. D. Wood
Comdg Dept. of Miss.
Vicksburg Miss.

Executive Office Jackson
December 6th 1865

Gen.

The Appeals Statement of Captain L. W. Preston shows that he fitted out a Cavalry Expedition into Mississippi — That for an act of lawful war a Sergeant (not named) was committed by a Magistrate for the grave offence of Assault with intent to kill. $2000 is not Exorbitant for that Offence. White men are seldom allowed so small an amount. As to the guilt or innocence of the part accused or the malice on the part of the prosecution, I am in total ignorance. The Constitution makes the Judiciary entirely independent of the Executive and forbids my interference

Maj. Gen. Howard
Richmond
Va

B. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

Executive Office
Jackson Mississippi

To all whom it may Concern

Whereas The Legislature of The State of Mississippi, by Resolution Adopted December 5th 1865 Authorized the Governor to appoint a Delegation, three in number to visit Washington City, and wait upon The President of the United States and Congress, and urge upon their attention The various Subjects Embraced in Said Resolutions.

Now Therefore,

I Benjamin G. Humphreys, Governor of The State of Mississippi, have appointed, and by These presents do appoint Hon. Wm Yerger, of Hinds County, Jno. M. Acker of Monroe County, and J. J. Hooker of Holmes County to visit Washington City and Carry out the objects Embraced in Said Resolutions.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of The State of Mississippi, affixed, This 9th day of December A.D. 1865.

Benj. G. Humphreys

By The Governor
A. Broughton
Secretary of State.

Executive Office Jackson
Dec 19th 1865.

Genl—

The copies of Complaints made by the Commanding Officers U.S. forces at Magnolia, with your endorsement thereon were received this morning — I have forwarded them to Maj Genl Lt Col C.L.E Stuart at Summit with instructions to enquire into the Conduct of the Militia Volunteers Complained of, and report the Commencing of any Offence that has permitted such outrages and have them brought before the Civil authorities for punishment

Lt-Col Stuart informed me last week that some citizens had assumed the authority of disarming the negroes, and called them selves, Militia, and that he had issued an Order forbidding it and directing his Volunteer Companies to arrest all such, and bring them to punishment — He represents them as the lowest order of citizens, principally "deserters" from the Confederate Service —

I can't think that the people of that portion of the State sympathize with any such Conduct — It is so different from the feeling I have been able to discover among them, that I hope Col Stuart will be able to correct all irregularities very soon

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Benj G Humphreys
Gov of Mississippi

To
Maj Genl T.J. Woods
Comdg Dept of Mississippi
Vicksburg —

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Jany 10th 1866

Genl

Your letter calling my attention to the case of N. Walker convicted of felony by the Circuit Court of Marshall County was found on my table when I returned to Jackson, and has been inadvertently neglected until this morning.

The Constitution forbids the Executive's interference with the Judicial decisions, except to grant pardons &c. There seems to be nothing in this case that would warrant the exercise of Executive Clemency which of itself would protect the accused from further prosecution by a Military Court.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Benj G Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

To
Maj. Genl. M. F. Force
Comdg. N.W. District

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Jany 10th 1866

(Telegram)

Maj. Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg Dept. Mississippi
Vicksburg Miss.

Further Respite of thirty (30) days granted to Harrison Brooks,
Full pardon to Mollie Kelley and Lewis Williams (freedmen)
Papers forwarded tomorrow

(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
January 10th 1866

Genl.

Your letter of Jany 6th and telegram of to day - received.
Judge Mercer before whom Harrison Brooks was tried informs me that "the proof in the case was this. The man Harrison and his wife lived in constant quarrel and with the consent of their Master, they agreed to separate, which they did, and their Master assigned them a different Cabin, in which she lived with another woman. this was some four or five months before the killing -
On the night of the killing, the deceased was in the Cabin at the request of Harriet, the woman who lived there. The accused and some men there. Harrison went out and left them in there. He returned and demanded admittance. Harriet refused it. he went away threatening, and returned and with an axe knocked the door down, The deceased was sitting in a chair with his head in his hands, He was struck with the axe by Harrison first in the shoulder and then blow after blow was literally cut to pieces" -
I think malice was clearly established by the testimony as above given and it would be improper to interpose Executive Clemency further than to grant a respite of thirty (30) days for religious preparation for his awful doom.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

Maj. Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg Dept. of Miss
Vicksburg Miss

Executive Office Jackson
Janj 10th 186

Sir

On my return to the City of Jackson I recd
your communication of Dec 25th informing me that the Pres
has relieved the Hon. W. L. Sharkey as Provisional Govr
of Mississippi and instructed him to deliver to me the papers a
property relating to that trust —

I desire to tender to the President my grateful acknowled
-ments for this mark of his confidence, and to assure
of my earnest efforts to assist in reestablishing the
friendly relations between the Government of the United
States and the State of Mississippi

Very Respect-fully
Your ob't Servt
Benj G Humphreys
Gov of Miss

To
Hon Wm H Seward
Secretary of State
Washington
D C

Executive Office Jackson Jany 23
1866

Gen'l —

I enclose you a letter from the Sheriff of Warren
Co — Also from the Probate Judge in relation to the conviction
and discipline &c of the County jail

The interference of the Military authorities with the
Civil Officers renders the attempt to administer the laws of
Mississippi a mockery —

My Object in addressing you is to ask your at-
tention to this matter — and for the guidance of the Civil Offic
to request you to inform me distinctly what laws of Mississippi
are nullified and will be disregarded in the future — and also
receive my request that the county jail be delivered up
exclusively to the Sheriff of Warren Co —

Very respectfully
Your ob't Servt
Benj G Humphreys
Gov of Miss —

To
Genl J. L. Woods
Com'g Department
of Mississippi
Vicksburg

Executive Office
Jackson Miss Feb

Genl.

I enclose two letters from DeKalb Kemper Co. complaining of the acts of Treasury Agents in regard to Cotton claimed by Mr. Rosenbaum a merchant of that place, and respectfully ask that you cause the matter to be investigated and relief to be affoded Mr Rosenbaum and the other citizens named, if they prove worthy,

I know Thomas H. Wood and as a gentleman of honor and integrity. He is now District Atty. of 6th Judicial District. I also know J. G. Harman by reputation & A.R. Johnston's endorsement places him above suspicion —

The young man that will hand you this is a son of Mr. Rosenbaum, and will be greatly obliged to you if you can let him off with your orders, on Sunday train

I shall telegraphe the Sheriff to delay the Cotton until he receives your orders —

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

To
Genl T. S. Wood
Comdg Dept of Miss
Vicksburg

Executive Office
Jackson Miss Feby 9 1866

General

I enclose you a letter from the Presiding Judge of the County Court of Harrison and respectfully ask your attention to the Complaints made

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
B. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

To
Maj Gen Wood

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
Feb. 13th 1866.

Genl.

Your Letter in regard to receiving prisoners sentenced by Federal Courts, into the Penitentiary of this State, has duly received, Our Penitentiary is not in a condition to make prisoners entirely comfortable, but can keep them quite securely and usefully in repairing the buildings - The Keeper will receive and receipt for any you may send him, and subject them only to the same discipline and treatment measured out to State convicts, and hold them subject to your orders

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

To
Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg. Dept of Miss.
Vicksburg

Executive Office Jackson Miss.
February 14th 1866

Genl.

You are hereby authorized to cast the vote of Mississippi for Directors of the Ship Island & Gulf R. Road at your next election for Directors, and for any measure that may be brought before the meeting of stockholders on the 19th inst. —

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

To
Genl C. McLaurin
Raymond Miss.

P.S.
Mississippi is entitled to fifty (50) votes. her stock amounting to Five thousand ($5,000) dollars

(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Miss.

Executive office
Jackson Miss. Feb. 13th 1866

Sir

I am instructed by His Excellency, Governor Humphreys to inform you that he has, this day, appointed you to the office of Clerk of the State Penitentiary, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. H. P. Dunby resigned.

You will please signify, at your earliest convenience, your acceptance or non-acceptance of this position,

I have the honor to be

To)
Mr. H. St Smythe
Jackson Miss.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt.
L. F. Mowry
Private Secretary

Executive Office
Jackson Miss.
February 14th 1866

Genl

I received yesterday your communication enclosing the affidavit and complaint of Mr. Lay. of brutal treatment by citizens of Chickasaw Co.
I have forwarded the complaint to Mr. Blair of Distrck Atty of 9th Judicial Dist. and instructed him to bring the offending parties before the Civil Authorities and hold them for trial before the next Circuit Court, where I hope they will meet the punishment they deserve —

To)
Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg. Dept. of Miss in appi
Vicksburg Miss.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt. Servt
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Feb. 17th 1866

Genl

Your letter of 14th inst asking me to instruct or advise the Sheriff of Noxubee Co. to surrender into the hands of the Military authorities, Wm Walker, a prisoner, convicted of assault and battery with intent to Kill and sentenced to the Penitentiary for the term of two years — was duly received
The Constitution of Mississippi forbids the Executive Department interfering with the Judiciary, except in the exercise of the pardoning power. As my attention has not been called to this case, as one meriting clemency, I presume it has no such merit. I can only advise the Sheriff, if the prisoner is demanded by a U.S. Military force, not to resist, but yield under protest.

To)
Maj. Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg. Dept. of Mississippi
Vicksburg

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
(Signed) Benj. G Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

Executive Office Jackson Miss
February 22nd 1866

Genl

I enclose you a letter from the Judge of Probate of Madison County; also the order and letter therein referred to for your decision in the matter—

The Genl Order of the Lieut. Genl seems to refer to "punishments for offenses" and "punishments" that are not equal in manner & degree. Does the idea as contemplated by the Lt. Genl. exist in the Apprentice law of Mississippi? If so the manner of punishing the minors of the two races, does vary in this. The Board of Police punishes the white minor (See the Revised Code Chapter XLIII Sec. 5. Act. 16) The Judge of Probate punishes the black minor (See Apprentice Act Nov 22nd 1865) The punishment varies also. They both have to work alike and are subject to similar treatment. but at the end of their servitude, the white minor receives "two suits of new clothing of a substantial kind", the black minor nothing. During servitude however, both can be reinforced for wrongs done them by the masters. The white minor receiving nothing and the black minor may receive one hundred dollars. The discrimination seems to be in favor of the black minor.

I know nothing of the case of Charles Pitard or what wrong or injustice has been done him. to call forth the human influence of the Freedmen's Bureau. but surely if Lt. Col. Donaldson's interpretation of the Lt. Genl's order is correct. the Apprentice law of Mississippi is a nullity. as no black minor can be indentured in the same manner and degree with a white minor. So also is the law forbidding miscegenation a nullity as a white man is fined $200, while a freedman is only fined $50.00 for the same offense. which is not a punishment in kind and degree, though the manner of doing it, may or may not be the same according to the taste of the parties.

May the Legislature has discriminated there in favor of the freedman is not for the Executive to enquire. but to avoid collision between the military and Civil authorities it is important for the Civil Officers to know with certainty whether these laws are to be nullified

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

To
Maj. Genl. Ord
Comdg. Dept of
Mississippi
Vicksburg

Executive Office March [illegible]

Genl

Yours of 9th inst. was received today asking me to appoint a justice of the peace for your district. The 23rd Sec of 4th Article of the State Constitution requires that justices of the peace shall be elected in each county by the qualified electors thereof, by districts.

Sec. 20 of 4th Article empowers the board of police to "order all elections to fill vacancies that may occur in the offices of the respective counties." You will readily perceive that I have no power in this matter.

The board of police will doubtless order the election if you will call this attention to the vacancy in your district

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

To
Genl. J. H. Hammond
Como
Panola Co.
Miss.

Executive Office
March 21st 1866

Sir

Your letter of 16th inst. has just reached me. The Magistrate, who took the affidavit of Mr. Blackmath ought to have issued his warrant for the arrest of the parties accused and placed it in the hands of the Sheriff of the County. The Sheriff is then bound to execute as therein directed.

The volunteer Companies can only act when called upon by the civil authorities, then they are bound to obey.

Procure this course and your remedy is perfect.

I have forwarded your letter and the affidavit of Mr Blackmath to the Dist. Atty. for the investigation of the affair

To

Francis Salter
Enterprise
Miss.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss

Executive Office
March 20th 1865

Genl

About a month since I forwarded to you a Memorial of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal South, of this place, asking for the restoration of the Church Property, seized and held by the Freedmens Bureau

As none has been received, and I again write to enquire whether said Memorial has been received by you?

Yr.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Maj. Genl. Wood
Comdg Dept of Miss
Vicksburg Miss

Executive Office, Jackson Miss,
April 4th, 1868

Col.

Complaints against the management of the Mobile and Ohio R. Road has reached this office from Citizens and Stockholders of every County through which the Road passes in Mississippi - calling for a change of the Presidency and Directory of that Road -

You are requested to visit that portion of the State and enquire into the complaints, Consult with the local Stockholders and prominent Citizens, and if possible cooperate with them in remedying the evils complained of -

You are hereby authorized to attend the election to be held in Mobile this month and cast the vote of Mississippi for Directors of the Mobile and Ohio R. Road

To
Col. I. M. Kennard
Adjt. Genl.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

(Seal)

By the Governor
(Signed) C. A. Bronson
Secy. of State

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
May 4th 1866.

Sir

Information of the assassination of 1st Lieut J. B. Blanding of the U.S.A. at Grenada, on the night of the 30th ult. has just been received through the Dept Commander from Capt Silas May V.R.C. Asst Comst Dist of Grenada. It is the wish of His Excellency Gen'l Humphreys that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and the assassin if possible, detected and brought to justice, and I am by him instructed to request you at the earliest practicable moment to transmit for the information of His Excellency as accurately as can be ascertained, all facts and circumstances relating to the assassination together with the name and description of the party or parties suspected of the crime, in order that a reward may be proclaimed and every other step taken, calculated in any way to secure the apprehension of the guilty party.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
D. H. Maury
Asst. Adj. Gen.

To
The Mayor of Grenada
Grenada
Miss.

Telegram

Executive Office.
Jackson Miss
May 4th 1866.

To
Maj. Genl. Wood
Comd'g Dept of Miss
Vicksburg.

The power of the Civil authorities of this State will be exerted, to the fullest extent, to ferret out and bring to justice the parties implicated in the assassination of Lieut. J.B. Blanding U.S.A. at Grenada Miss, on the night of 30th ult.

Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss -
May 4th 1866.

Ladies of the Committee
For State Mississippi

I have just received your
letter enclosing certificate of deposit No. 2423 National Union
Bank of Maryland for $5,000 for the relief of the "widows and
Orphans of Confederate Soldiers; the disabled soldiers and those
that have lost all by the war."

You say that "You shall hope to hear from you as early as
possible, and ever be grateful for any advice you may give that
enable us to carry out the views of our association" - I expect, within
a few weeks, to have full returns of the number of disabled
Confederate Soldiers - and the widows and orphans of deceased Soldiers
from every county in the State - also of the operations and Condition
of some the existing institutions, that have been organized in the
State, for the education and support of the orphans of Confederate Soldiers
and others made penniless by the war -
When these returns come in, I will have it in my power to comply
with your request, and will furnish you with all the information
in my possession that may aid you in reaching deserving
Cases in Mississippi,

In behalf of the people of Mississippi I beg to tender you
and through you the noble ladies of Maryland, our heartfelt
thanks for this munificent donation and this kind sympathy
for our bleeding South - And to assure you of our humble and
earnest prayer to the great Giver of all good for the continued
prosperity and happiness of the people of Maryland,

Gratefully and Affectionately
Your Obt. Servt,
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Mrs. Peyton Hearnson
Miss; Dora Hoffman
Mrs. John N.B. Latrobe
Committee for Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
May 7th 1866

Dear Sir

Yours of May 1st duly received, You have been wrongly informed as to my issuing a proclamation forbidding the disarmament of Negroes. I have no power to suspend the laws, or forbid Civil Officers from enforcing it. I issued an order to Volunteer Military Officers to act only in support of the Civil Officers. The law was passed "to guard the State against evils that may arise from sudden emancipation" - idleness, vagrancy; violence and insurrection are the evils most to be apprehended. The civil officers in the different portions of the State must be the Conservators of the peace of the State and must be left to judge of the necessity and obligation of enforcing the laws. The law was not passed to harass or annoy the freedmen or their employers. It is to be hoped that employers will procure from Boards of Police proper authority for putting guns and ammunition in the hands of trusty freedmen, and that civil officers will use their authority only to ensure the peace and safety of the people of the State, and not to gratify unmanly feelings towards freedmen or their employers.

If civil officers or individuals have wronged you the Judiciary must be applied to for redress. Their decision will be enforced by all the power of the State,

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt,
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

To
Hon B. Whitfield Esq.
Attorney,
Lowndes Co, Miss,

Executive Office
Jackson Miss,
May 19th 1866.

To,
His Excellency
Andrew Johnson
President of the U.S.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency a letter from the Hon. Wm Yerger, dated Jackson May 16th 1866, also a letter from the Attorneys of certain citizens of Mississippi, dated Columbus Miss, May 8th 1866, complaining of the unwarrantable interference of the Military Authorities of this Department, with certain suits brought in the State Courts against Reuben Johnson Asst Treasury Agent of the U. States for private wrongs suffered by these citizens at the hands of said Johnson, under cover of authority conferred upon him as Special Treasury Agent. Their petition and the

documents accompanying them, exhibit the conduct of Johnson as a flagitious and tyrannical exercise of power not warranted by the circumstances of the case or his duty to the Government. but used for his own private and selfish ends & aims.

It is difficult to understand how the Military domination assumed over these civil Courts of Mississippi can be sustained by the Genl. Orders of the Govt issued for the protection of its officers in the discharge of their legal duties.

The loyal citizens of Mississippi has exhibited every disposition to yield implicit obedience to a just administration of all the laws passed, and Genl. Orders issued for their guidance, but when opposed by the Agents of the Government they deem it but right and just to seek redress through the Courts of the country. This redress is now denied them, by the interposition of the Military power, placed over them; the wrong doer is screened from legal investigations of his usurpations and responsibility to the injured citizen - and goes unchecked of justice.

These citizens now appeal to your Excellency as the Chief Executive of the Nation for protection, and only ask for such practicable remedies, as the law of the land afford them.

I hope Your Excellency will give the documents herewith enclosed (marked A. B. C. & D.) a perusal, and I feel assured you will decide the matter justly, and require the Military authorities to abstain from any interference, with the investigation by the Courts of the wrongs complained of,

If the Agent of the Treasury has acted honestly and faithfully in the discharge of his duties to the Government, he need fear no danger from the Courts. It is justice only that he need fear. If he has used the power & with which he is clothed, to exhort and plunder the citizens of Mississippi, which has been too often the case, it is but right and just that he should be made to discharge his ill gotten gains and be punished for his crimes and villanies

Relying upon your sense of justice and known disposition to protect our citizens in all their Constitutional rights - I submit this Case to your decision and await your action, and respectfully expect an answer at your earliest convenience

Very Respectfully
Yr. obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

Executive Office Jackson
Mississippi May 25th 1866

Sir -

Your "Circular" letter of 12th May was received Yesterday - informing me "That the Governor of one of the States of the United States, has issued instruments signed by himself and bearing the seal of the State over which he presides, which instruments purports to be passports to Citizens of the United States" - And that such passports are by the President "deemed to be in contravention of the Constitution and Laws of the United States, and of the Laws of Nations and that such instruments are illegal and void"

I To such instruments I have been informed by you, as by the Sec'y of State of Mississippi - Several applications have been made for such Passports, but have been refused upon the grounds taken by the President -

To
Hon Wm H. Seward -
Sec'y State
Washington D.C.

Very respectfully
Your ob't Serv't
B. G. Humphreys
Gov'r of Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
May 14th 1866

To
His Excellency
The Governor of Alabama

Sir

I am requested by the "Central Cotton Growing Association" of Mississippi to communicate with Your Excellency, and solicit your cooperation in stimulating the cotton growers of your State, to enter at once into the plan adopted in this State for ascertaining the probable amount of the growing Cotton Crop of your State and to request that such associations as may be formed to communicate the result of their labors by the 1st of August next to me, that I may advise you the form adopted by the Mississippi Associations for obtaining from the growers the statistics needed

Very Respectfully
Your ob't Serv't
B. G. Humphreys
Gov'r &c

A Communication same as the above was addressed to the Governor of each of the Cotton growing States of the United States

Executive Office
Jackson Miss
July 2nd 1866

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a printed copy, of a concurrent Resolution of Congress, entitled "Joint Resolution proposing an amend-ment to the Constitution of the United States Art XIV from the office of Sec. of State. U.S." - which will be laid befor the Legislature of Mississippi at its next session

Very Respectfully
Yr obt Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss.

To
Hon. Wm. Hedward
Sec of State
Washington City
D. C.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. July 12th 18

Genl.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, yesterday of your letter of 30th June to Maj. Genl Howard, with his endorsement dated June 30th, together with your endorsement dated July 7th requesting my views "as to whether any action will be taken by the authorities of the State other the Legislature to put the State laws in harmony with the law of Congress"

The endorsement of Genl Howard leave the subject involved in so many contingencies and so much doubt that the State authorities would scarcely know where to begin, or when to stop in the work of "harmony" - He says - "It is believed that if the Legislature of Mississippi would repeal all State Statutes inconsistent with the Civil Rights Bill Law, and enact others in harmony with its provisions. that would apply equally to whites and blacks, much of the difficulty complained of might be obviated". Not that all difficulty would be obviated, Something would be still left to "hap upon", he adds "Such a course would no doubt tend to (not in reality) restore confidence and might (not would) secure specific performance of contracts &c" And concludes "When a Bureau Officer has become responsible for the fulfillment of the contracts he should see all the authority in his possession to see that they are carried out". It is difficult to understand how a Bureau Officer can become responsible for the fulfillment of a contract unless he is a party to the contract, In such case it would be an act of supererogation to urge him "to use all the authority in his possession to see that they are carried out". The Authorities of Mississippi are not aware

they are ever derelict in such cases. In compliance with your
known, I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the "civil
law" is an insulting assumption of the assumed rights of the negro
and the people, that neither the Legislature nor the Executive has
a right, to adopt it, as a rule for their action. In the matter
referred to in your correspondence with Genl. Howard, The Amendment to
the Constitution that emancipates our slaves, made it the duty of
the Legislature to pass laws "to guard them and the State, against the
evils that might arise from their sudden emancipation". The amendment
discriminates between "them" and "the State" and the evils to be guarded
against require discriminating laws. Early after the adjournment of
the Legislature, these discriminating laws, were forwarded by the
Executive of Mississippi to the President, and laid before him, by
Special Commissioners, with the request that such of them as were to
be nullified should be designated, The President assured the Commis-
sioners, that none of them should be nullified, except by the adjudica-
tion of the Courts. It is hoped that the Courts will be allowed to ad-
judicate them, as well as the "Civil rights law". I feel assured that this
decision will be acquiesced in and submitted to, by every citizen of Mis-
sissippi.

Much unmerited censure has been bestowed upon the Legislature for
the laws, its honest judgement suggested as proper and necessary to guard
the negro as well as the State against the evils that might arise from
their sudden emancipation, such as idleness, vagrancy violence and
insurrection —

The inevitable insult offered to the sensibilities of the white race by
garrisoning the State with negro troops. The heartless imitations to which the
white race was subjected by negro guards, and the incendiary and inflammatory
harangues made to the negroes by officers connected with the Freedmens
Bureau, within hearing of the Capitol are circumstances not very propitious
for calm and dispassionate legislation, But these imitations and insults
being now removed, and white troops! who recognize the superiority of their
color, substituted, The negroes themselves manifesting a disposition
to recognize the inferiority of their color, and having quietly gone to
work on our plantations, and earnestly engaged in peaceful pur-
suits, it is believed that upon the reassembling of the Legislature
the rigidity of these laws will be relaxed, and such as are not
deemed necessary to maintain the social and political inequality
as well as the purity of the races, will be repealed, promptitude
thanks, by motives of honor and justice to the negro, and for the pros-
perity and happiness of both races.

Very Respectfully Your Obdt Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

Agent

To
Maj. Genl. T. J. Wood
Comdg. Dept of Miss.
Vicksburg Miss

3

Executive Office Jackson
July 26th 1866

Sir –

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Communication of 17th inst. enclosing the letter of Mr. C. Barreda Minister of Peru to this Country making inquiry of the movements of one James J. Thompson formerly a citizen of this State.

I refered the Communication to the Citizens of Adams Co. requesting the enclosed letters from the Hon. H. T. Poole, Judge of the Judicial District, and Messrs Thos. G. Galbraight and P. C. Lyon all gentlemen of high social position. I have no doubt they will give a correct statement of the fate of the unfortunate man.

The action of the Citizens referred to by these gentlemen was the civil officers called into use for his protection

To
Hon. W. H. Seward
Sec of State
Washington City
D. C.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov of Miss,

Executive Office
Jackson Miss July 31st 1866

Genl.

Your communication of the 28th inst. was received yesterday calling my attention to a desperado named Tucker and yet running at large.

I have often heard of Tucker as a murderer and robber, but have never yet found the man, who of his own knowledge could charge him with any specific act or make affidavit of a case to the belief of his guilt. If any such man can be produced, the Civil officers will at once arrest him if to be found. Until such specific charge is made the Civil officers cannot move against him.

I will be thankful to any one that will make the charge to support it with the necessary affidavit, and place it in the hands of some civil officer, and report that officer. if he fails to act.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

To
Maj. Genl. Wood
Comdg Dept of
Mississippi
Vicksburg

Executive Office
Jackson Miss, Nov

His Excellency
Andrew Johnson
President of the U.S.A.

Sir

By a resolution of the Legislature of Mississippi it was made my duty to appoint two Commissioners to visit you and apply for the enlargement on bail or parole of Jefferson Davis at present confined in Fortress Monroe.

In the performance of this duty I have appointed the Hon. Robt Lowry and the Hon. Giles M. Hillyer - the former a Senator and the latter a Representative in the Legislature - who will hand you this Communication.

I now choose in this formal manner to address Your Excellency in aid of the object sought to be accomplished by the resolution of the Legislature. I hope to be pardoned in adding a few reflections which occur to me as not inappropriate. Prominent among the causes which induced the adoption of the resolution is the fact that seems now to be conceded that the accused will not be admitted to ~~trial~~ a trial before the ensuing Spring. owing to the reorganization of the Judicial Districts, under an act of Congress, and the reassignment of the Judges to the Districts thus reorganized; and the danger apprehended from a winter's imprisonment in his present feeble and precarious state of health.

From such information as they were able to obtain from those who have recently visited Mr. Davis, the Legislature was induced to believe that it would be attended with imminent risk to his life to be detained in Fortress Monroe another winter. They are more fully persuaded and I think I can speak with confidence when I say there is not a citizen in this State and I sincerely doubt whether there is one in the United States - who is not equally well persuaded that his imprisonment is not at all necessary to secure his presence at any time and place which may be appointed for his trial. Of this the Government must be the judge. I must not be understood as desiring to dictate, and far less as presuming for a moment to indulge in reflections upon the justice of the Course hitherto pursued in his imprisonment. Without controverting the wisdom, justice and policy of that Course in the past I confine myself to the present and the future, and then only in reference to the effect likely to result to his life and health by longer confinement. In all that I have said and may say my sole purpose is to put Your Excellency in possession of that Station to have been the motives and influences which actuated the Legislature in the adoption of the resolution under consideration. Another fact, omitted, had might and I cannot forbear mentioning it. I do it in a spirit of perfect candor, believing that Your Excellency has the magnanimity to appreciate it. The fact is historical and incontrovertible that the people of Mississippi by a majority unprecedented in their annals, inaugurated at the ballot box and by

ordinance of a Convention, which they believed represented the
-eignety of the State, the policy which resulted in placing Mr
Davis where he is, It was by their mandate, he occame his re
in the United States Senate, and by the same authority and th
-ofher Sister States of the South, in vain efsaying to establish
Separate Government they attempted that he was placed a
head of the Government they attempted to organize, I state the f
without discussing or vindicating it, that the Legislature, responding
the popular sentiment in that regard, consider him neither
a less guilty than them who placed him in that position. Im
-mediate connection with that fact. I desire to say that the peop
of Mississippi with equal, nay, greater unanimity, indeed
might say with almost absolute unanimity have in perfect
good faith accepted the arbitrament of the sword to which
-sorted the Controversy - have returned to their allegiance to the
-ernment of the United States, with a firm purpose to main
its integrity and promote its prosperity by all the means in the
power, The proof of this, if it were not found in the very recess
to which they are shut up, would be in the zeal and unanimity
which they support your administration in its struggle to preserve
perpetuate the admirable form of Government established by the fa
of the Constitution. With one mind and heart they are united in
that support, believing as they do, that upon your success in that struggle
is involved the last hope of Constitutional freedom, not upon this Continen
alone, but throughout the world.

I know of no event which would go further to heal the wounds in-
-flicted by the late sanguinary and fratricidal war, than the gratification
by Your Excellency of the wish implied in the resolutions of the Legislature.
It would send a thrill of joy through the heart of the whole people of the
South irrespective of all past political differences, upon the origin and cause of
the war, It is believed that it would excite similar emotions in every just and
generous bosom even amongst those so lately arrayed in deadly conflict
with us.

As I have before remarked we do not ask for an unconditional pardon or
that pending prosecutions shall be dismissed, We do not seek to screen him
from trial, Believing that the ends of justice will be reached, that his im-
-prisonment is not necessary to secure his presence when demanded for trial
and can only be attended with fatal results to his health. I add my
earnest entreaty to that of the Legislature that it may please Your Excellency
to admit him to bail or enlarge him upon parole.

I have the honor to be Your Excellency's
Obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Nov. 22

Gentlemen—

The Legislature at its recent session passed Resolutions authorizing the leasing of the Penitentiary to private persons for a term of years, and suspending all the offices connected therewith except that of Superintendant. The Commissioners appointed to lease the Penitentiary have closed a contract for that purpose with J.M. Young & Co. for the term of fourteen years.

This is to notify you that I have this day directed Col. G.L. Donald Superintendant of the Institution to turn the same over to J.M. Young & Co. together with all the property, convicts, &c thereto belonging in accordance with the terms of the aforesaid Contract, and to direct you to turn over to Col. G.L. Donald all moneys books and accounts of any description, yet remaining in your hands and make report thereof at as early a day as Convenient to be laid before the Legislature at its next session.

I beg to assure you, gentlemen, that the Legislature in suspending your offices, was influenced by no dissatisfaction with the manner in which you have discharged the arduous duties imposed upon you, but from imperious necessity forced upon it by the poverty and dislocation of our people, rendering them unable to bear the expense of rebuilding and refitting the Institution for use[illegible].

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Benj. G. Humphreys
Governor of Mississippi

To
C.A. Marshall
C.R. Dickson } Inspectors of Penitentiary
D.N. Barrows

H.H. Smythe. Clerk of Penitentiary

S.T.C. Farrar
Physician

Harwood
Supt. of Guard

Executive Office
Jackson Miss 2nd 2[illegible]

Sir

The Legislature of Mississippi at its recent Session [illegible] a joint Resolution. "To accept donation of Public Lands granted by [illegible] to the several States and Territories which may provide Colleges for [illegible] benefit of Agricultural and Mechanics Arts. approved July 2nd 1862 a[illegible] extended by subsequent acts of Congress". a copy of which is here[illegible] transmitted —

My object in writing is to enquire whether any other steps are necessary to be taken by the State of Mississippi to secure the benefits said act of Congress and what steps must be taken by me to obtain [illegible] &c. Any information will be thankfully received and promptly attended to.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
Benj. G. Humphreys
Gov. of Miss.

To.

Commissioner of Genral Land Office
Washington City
D.C.

Executive Office
Jackson Miss. Dec 20th 1866

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following as a response to [illegible] of 19th Dec.— just received,

In compliance with a Requisition of His Excellency, the Governor of Missouri bearing date of Dec 3rd a Writ addressed "To the Sheriff of Hinds County & to the Sheriff of any other County," [illegible] on the 13th Dec. issued from this office, directing the arrest of one Lewis Leyens, the person demanded in said Requisition and his delivery to Henry McKay, the Agent of the State of Missouri authorized to receive him,

From information, of a reliable and satisfactory character subsequently received, it was believed that said Writ was improvidently issued and should be revoked: And, accordingly another Writ, similarly addressed, recalling the former and directing its return unexecuted to this office was issued. The reasons which induced this step were, that a bill that the prosecution for "Embezzlement" was instituted for the purpose of extorting a settlement of a private debt and not with any view to promote public justice. as it was believed that a proposition was made on the 14th inst. to Lewis Leyens and afterwards communicated to his Counsel Judge Miller, by the Agent in charge of the Writ, under a written authority from his principals: that on the proceedings, provided the debt was paid: with a pledge on the part of the party proposing. that the main object of obtaining settlement and the arrest should not be diverted to any person, It cannot be supposed that the Executive of this State would lend his assistance to such a prostitution

of the Criminal Laws of the land to purposes of private ven-
tion,
In the second place, a reexamination of the affidavit upon
which the Requisition was based disclosed a very important, if not
fatal omission there, which but for its being overlooked at the time
of the first examination which was somewhat hurried, would have
caused a refusal of the writ at that time. Both the Constitution
of the United States and the law of Congress make it necessary in
the affidavit, in such cases to aver that the party, sought to
be arrested and returned is a fugitive from justice. The affi-
davit in question makes the charge of Embezzlement without such
an averment.
The Requisition of His Excellency, the Governor of Missouri, will
be returned, at this Office, for transmission direct to him
together with a Statement explanatory of the action of
His Excellency, the Governor of this State, thereon.
Trusting that my Statement is sufficiently clear to prevent
a misunderstanding and that the same for this action will
be appreciated by you, I am

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
L. F. Maury
Private Secretary

To
Geo. C. McKee Esq.
Vicksburg Miss.